

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T STATE 005895

NODIS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMMAN DATED JANUARY 8, 1978 SENT
SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 0224

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, JO, US, XF
SUBJECT: MEETINGS WITH SAUDIS AND SADAT

REF: A) SECTO 13093, B) SECTO 13102, C) AMMAN 0111

1. COURT CHIEF SHARAF ASKED TO SEE ME FOLLOWING MY
DISCUSSION WITH KING HUSSEIN ON REFTELS. WE ARRANGED
TO MEET JANUARY 8. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO GO OVER
POINTS WHICH KING HAD MADE TO ME. SHARAF OFFERED A
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NUMBER OF FURTHER DETAILS ON KING'S POSITION. HE ALSO
WISHES TO GET TOGETHER WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK IN AN
EVEN MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION.

2. FIRST POINT SHARAF MADE WAS IN RESPECT TO PARA
3 OF REFTEL A). KING IN FAVOR OF MINOR RECTIFICATIONS
IF RECIPROCAL. KING SAID THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIS

POSITION AND THERE IS NO NEED TO MAINTAIN IT IN CONFIDENCE. SHARAF COMMENTED THAT SHAH SEEMED TO BE PUSHING EVEN MORE THAN KING TOWARD A POSITION WHICH WOULD KEEP INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE OUT OF THE PICTURE.

3. IN PARA 5, REFTTEL A), SHARAF SPENT A GOOD BIT OF TIME ON THE QUESTION OF "JOINT SUPERVISION" DURING A TRANSITION PERIOD. SHARAF SAID KING IS QUITE CATEGORICALLY NEGATIVE ON THIS POINT. HE CONTRASTED IT WITH PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON AIRPLANE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF JORDAN JOINING SUCH A JOINT SUPERVISORY BODY. SHARAF ASKED ME FOR A TEXT OF WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAD SAID OR A READOUT WHICH I WILL GIVE HIM.

4. SHARAF'S POINT WAS THAT KING WOULD NOT EXPECT TO ENTER A JOINT ADMINISTRATION WITH THE ISRAELIS, EVEN FOR A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. JORDAN BELIEVES THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD SHOULD BE UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL. JORDAN IS OPENMINDED ABOUT AND WILLING TO LISTEN TO ANY IDEAS ON THE SUBJECT AND THUS IS PRESERVING SOME OF THE FLEXIBILITY WHICH I ASKED KING TO KEEP IN MIND AT OUR LAST MEETING. HOWEVER, A CONDOMINIUM OR JOINT ARRANGEMENT WHICH DID NOT GIVE THE UN OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY PRE-EMINENCE WOULD BE CONTRARY TO JORDANIAN POSITION. SHARAF ALSO SAID THAT ANY ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE
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ABSENCE OF ISRAELI TROOPS.

5. ON PARA 8 OF REFTTEL A), HUSSEIN FULLY AGREES WITH FAHD THAT HE CANNOT GET OUT IN FRONT WITH A PUBLIC POSITION MAINTAINING THAT THE WEST BANK SHOULD AFFILIATE WITH JORDAN. SHARAF EMPHASIZED, AND KING ALSO HAD REMARKED TO ME, JORDAN'S AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT.

6. ON PARA 9 OF REFTTEL A), SHARAF SAID JORDAN BASICALLY AGREED WITH PRINCE SAUD'S POSITION THAT UNFETTERED SELF-DETERMINATION WITH MINOR TERRITORIAL RECTIFICATIONS IS BETTER THAN FULL TERRITORIAL RETURN WITH THE SHACKLES ON SELF-DETERMINATION. AT LEAST THIS SHOULD BE THE PUBLIC POSITION. SHARAF WAS SOMEWHAT CONFUSING HOWEVER WHEN HE ALSO SAID HE SUPPORTED THE IDEA THAT THE FREE CHOICE FOR THE PALESTINIANS COULD EVENTUALLY BE WORKED OUT TO BE AFFILIATION WITH JORDAN OR ALTERNATIVELY STATUS AS A FULLY DEMILITARIZED ENTITY UNDER UN AUSPICES THUS LEAVING OUT THE INDEPENDENCE OPTION. THERE WAS NO TIME TO EXPLORE THIS CONUNDRUM AND WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH SHARAF LATER.

7. THESE POINTS SHARAF WANTED ME TO PASS ON TO YOU WITH KING'S
APPROVAL FURTHER TO CLARIFY OUR UNDERSTANDING OF
JORDANIAN VIEWS.
PICKERING UNQUOTE VANCE

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